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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,294	12/08/2003	John M. Tiesler	02-022.4	2573
40431	7590	12/16/2004	EXAMINER	
ANDREOU & CASSON, LTD. 332 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 1144 CHICAGO, IL 60604			HARVEY, JAMES R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/730,294

Applicant(s)

TIESLER, JOHN M.

Examiner

James R. Harvey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

- Claim(s) 4-12 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - In reference to Claim(s) 4, the recitation (line 2) “a upper” should be “an upper”, the recitations (line 3) “tube connector” and “lower retainer” should be “a tube connector” and “ a lower retainer”, the recitation (line 4) “male connector” and “receiving hole” should be “a male connector” and “a receiving hole”.
 - In reference to Claim(s) 10, the recitation (line 2) “comprises of wire” should be “comprises a wire”.
 - In reference to Claim(s) 12, the recitation (line 3) “the snap nut” and “the tube” lacks proper antecedent basis. For purposes of examination, it is assumed that the claim was intended to depend from claim 4 from which the language in question originates in the claims. An examination based on the merits, as best understood, is addressed below.
 - The above objections to the claims are seen to be apparently due to translation errors. The entire application (specification, claims, and abstract) should be reviewed and corrected to comply with standard USPTO practice.
 - Appropriate response to the above is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

** Claim(s) 1-3, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DeLine et al. (6087953).

-- In reference to Claim(s) 1, DeLine shows (cover sheet) and (figure 6) a dockable (column 5, line 35) connection assembly 300 (figure 15) that has

a retainer assembly 14 (figure 5);

a connector assembly 32 (figure 5); and

a harness assembly (figure 5; near the lead line of numeral 30).

-- In reference to Claim(s) 2, DeLine shows (figure 15)

the dockable connection assembly 300 is generally forward of the passenger seating area.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 3, DeLine shows (figure 15) the dockable connection assembly 300 is mounted to the windshield and applicant's specification (page 4, lines 1 and 14; (figure 1)) show the windshield 4 is part of the ceiling.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 10, DeLine shows (figures 6 and 15) the harness assembly (near the lead line of numeral 30) has a wire (figure 5).

-- In reference to Claim(s) 11, DeLine shows (figures 6 and 15) the harness assembly (near the lead line of numeral 30) runs through the retainer assembly 14 and makes the electrical connection within the connection assembly 300 at the point where the male connector 32 is properly oriented with the female connector (figures 9 and 15).

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Allowable Subject Matter

- Claim(s) 4-9 and 12 have allowable subject matter.
- Claim(s) 4-9 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
- The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not show the structural elements of an upper retainer 12, a tube connector 14 with an index, a lower retainer 36, a snap ball joint 24, a male connector 22, a female connector 20, a lock ring 16, a snap nut 18, a case 34 fitted over the snap ball joint 24, and some of the interrelationships between the structural elements in combination with all the other elements of the claim and the examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine the prior art such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

If the application becomes allowable, any comments considered necessary by applicant should be submitted in the next office action. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowable Subject Matter".

Conclusion

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Effective May 1, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a new Commissioner for Patents address. Correspondence in patent related matters must now be addressed to:

**Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

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For additional information regarding the new address, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

- The prior art listed on PTO form 892 that is made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it shows the state of the art with respect to applicant's claimed invention. In particular, Barchus shows a ball joint (figure 2), Carnevali and Riday shows a few of the structural elements claimed, Oddsen (figure 8) shows structure that is similar to applicant's tube connector with an index 14 (figure 2 of applicant).
- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 571-272-2007. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

- Effective **October 1, 2003**, all patent application related correspondence transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number, **(703) 872-9306**, with a few exceptions. *See Fax Automation in Technology Center 1700, 1237 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 140 (August 29, 2000). Replies to Office actions including after-final amendments that are transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number. Unofficial correspondence such as draft proposed amendments for interviews may continue to be transmitted by facsimile to the Technology Centers.

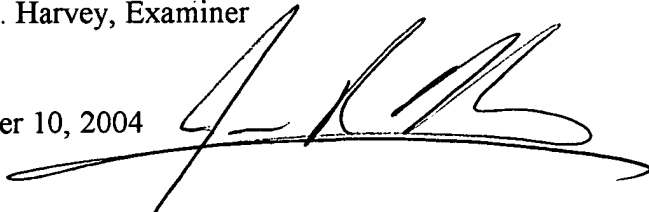
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- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh

December 10, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JRH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.